

REMARKS

[1] In the Office Action of June 2, 2005, the Examiner has indicated that:

(i) Claims 32-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

(ii) Claim 32 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

(iii) Claims 33-36 are objected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

[2] In response to the Examiner's indication, Claim 32 is amended in order to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 33-36 are unamended since the amended claim 32 is believed to overcome the Examiner's above rejection.

Regarding the bases for the amendment,

Claim 32, lines 52-55 (said first labyrinth seal --- interstice therebetween,) are based on the previous claim 32, lines 57-60 currently deleted and original claim 15;

Claim 32, lines 65-67 (a base member --- , said inner ring member of said first labyrinth seal forming part of said base member,) are based on lines 29-33 on page 26 of the original specification;

Claim 32, lines 68-70 (a first fixed member --- , said outer ring member of said first labyrinth seal and said inner ring member of said second labyrinth seal respectively forming part of said first fixed member,) are based on lines 13-15 on page 26 of the original specification; and

Claim 32, lines 71-73 (a second fixed member --- , said outer ring member of said second labyrinth seal forming part of second fixed member) are based on lines 33-35 on page 25 of the original specification.

These amended lines mean that the base member and the first fixed member collectively constitute the first labyrinth seal unit and that the first and second fixed members

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Applicants: Tetsuya WATANABE et al.

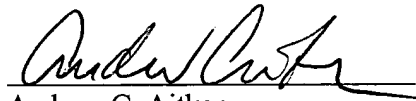
collectively constitute the second labyrinth seal unit. It is also believed that there is no conflicting language in the amended claim 32.

In view of the above, the amended claim 32 is believed to overcome the Examiner's rejection, and the present application is now in condition for allowance.

Early allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Andrew C. Aitken

Registration No. 36,729

VENABLE LLP

P.O. Box 34385

Washington, D.C. 20043-9998

Telephone: (202) 344-8165

Telefax: (202) 344-8300

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